

19 October 1965

BRIEFING NOTES
FOR THE DCI

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

(MAP, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC AND ~~SANTO~~ DOMINGO)

- I. The Dominican Republic may be back on the verge of a crisis again, after more than four months of civil war and six weeks of a shaky truce under a provisional government.
- A. Last Saturday a mob which had been attending a left-wing rally in Santo Domingo attacked and murdered a prominent right-wing political leader, Angel Severo Cabral. (This is not former President Donald Reid Cabral.)
1. The mob caught Cabral when he returned to his home in the rebel zone to pick up some personal belongings. Armed leftists broke into his house and wounded the right-wing leader, his wife, and daughter. Then they chased him through the yard to a neighboring house and killed him.
- B. The incident has inflamed the conservatives, who have been complaining that the provisional president, Hector Garcia Godoy, has done nothing to make the Communists live up to their obligations under the settlement proposed at the end of August by the OAS.

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1. There was sporadic shooting yesterday in Santo Domingo.
 2. Right-wing vigilante groups are going into action. One of these armed groups, for instance, enabled the legitimate administration of the University to return to the campus to confront a leftist group which had seized control of the University last month. Repeated appeals to the provisional government had produced no action to restore control of the campus to the proper authorities.
- C. Garcia Godoy, a career diplomat and businessman from Santiago, has been the provisional president since September 3rd. His term is supposed to be limited to nine months, to supervise election of a new president and national congress.
- II. From the outset, the provisional government has faced both a recalcitrant and suspicious military establishment, and strident, confident leftist forces. Garcia Godoy has obviously been reluctant to call on either the Inter-American Peace Force or the regular Dominican armed forces to counterbalance the aggressiveness of the Communists. As a result he has had no leverage for obtaining rebel compliance.
- A. His first order of business was to force the resignation and departure of the controversial

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General Elias Wessin y Wessin from the country. Under escort of the Inter-American Peace Force, Wessin left the Dominican Republic on September 9th, and is now living in Miami, Florida. Although other military leaders failed to support Wessin, they resented the timing and method used to force Wessin's departure.

- B. The regime's conciliatory policies toward the former rebels -- including the appointment of some to high ranking positions in the regime -- caused increasing suspicion of Garcia Godoy on the part of the military, the moderates, and the conservatives.
- C. By mid-September, rebel civilian elements began leaving the rebel zone for their homes in the provinces.
- D. Rebel military elements, estimated at around 1,400, remained intact within the rebel zone, and hedged on turning over their large supply of weapons to the government. A majority of the usable rebel arms are believed to have been cached by leftist and Communist groups.

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- E. Integration of rebel military personnel into the regular armed forces was finally agreed upon early in October. On October 13th, rebel military forces left the rebel zone en masse for a military camp east of the city to await processing and integration.
- F. Now that the rebel forces have withdrawn from Santo Domingo, the bulk of the IAPF is to be quartered in an encampment in the vicinity of the Hotel Embajador to the west of the city.

III. The return of former president Juan Bosch from Puerto Rico on September 25th has done little to ease tension within the country.

- A. Since his arrival, Bosch has made a series of bitterly anti-US statements, and has made no effort to cooperate with the provisional regime.

IV. Extremists of both the left wing and the right continue their plotting.

- A. Communist forces, especially the pro-Chinese Dominican Popular Movement, continue to advocate and prepare for a guerrilla/terrorist campaign against US military personnel and anti-Communist Dominicans.

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- B. Rightist elements, fearing that their traditional hold on political power and wealth may be jeopardized by sweeping reforms or a Communist takeover, have continued their efforts to enlist military leaders for schemes to force the provisional government to clamp down on leftist elements.
- V. The present strength of the Inter-American Peace Force is about 10,655 men.
- A. That includes 8,876 US forces, 1,136 Brazilians, companies from Nicaragua, Honduras, and Paraguay, and a token detachment from Costa Rica.
 - B. The terms of the settlement in August provided that the provisional government would negotiate the continuing role of the IAPF--as well as the manner and timing of its withdrawal--with the Organization of American States.
 - C. Political leaders, however, have been cashing in on the resentment of foreign troops to make a political football out of the IAPF. Even some who admit in private that the Inter-American Force must stay, feel that they have to call for its withdrawal in their public statements in order to build and hold a following.